

the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1259, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING 2008 NCAA BASEBALL CHAMPION FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1327) congratulating the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Baseball Champions, the Fresno State Bulldogs, on an outstanding and historic season, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1327

Whereas California State University, Fresno, better known as Fresno State, was founded in 1911 and has offered advanced degrees since 1949;

Whereas Fresno State has one of the top Agriculture Sciences and Technology programs in the California State University system, with a worldwide reputation in water technology, more than 200 awards for student-produced wines, and research having global impact in the areas of food production, land preservation, and irrigation;

Whereas Fresno State's Craig School of Business has been recognized in the Princeton Review's top business schools and is nationally acclaimed for its Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship;

Whereas Fresno State also offers well-regarded programs in schools or colleges devoted to arts and humanities, health and human services, education and human development, social sciences, physical sciences, and mathematics and engineering;

Whereas Fresno State is home to approximately 19,000 undergraduate students, 2,200 graduate students, and nearly 1,000 post-baccalaureate students;

Whereas in the recent Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation process, Fresno State was commended as a "national model for institutions interested in becoming generators of social mobility, economic development, and student success";

Whereas Fresno State prepares its students to prosper in their chosen careers by being responsible citizens in their communities, as well as in the State, Nation, and world;

Whereas all Fresno State athletic programs pride themselves on recruiting male and female athletes from local high schools and junior colleges;

Whereas every member of this year's championship baseball team is from California, with many players hailing from such San Joaquin Valley towns as Fresno, Clovis, Bakersfield, Visalia, Hanford, and Turlock;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs baseball team beat the University of Georgia Bulldogs two games to one to win the 2008 College World Series;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs opened the College World Series with a victory over sixth-seeded Rice University and had two wins over number-two national seed University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;

Whereas the Bulldogs hit 14 home runs, the second most in College World Series history, and set the record for the most extra-base hits, runs batted in, and total bases in a championship game;

Whereas the Bulldogs became the first team in College World Series history to score at least 17 runs more than once in the same College World Series;

Whereas the Bulldogs became the first number-four regional seed to reach the College World Series since the tournament expanded in 1999;

Whereas all 10 of the Bulldogs' postseason wins have come against teams ranked in the top 15, including its final 7 wins over national seeds;

Whereas the Bulldogs played on the road for over 40 days;

Whereas, throughout the College World Series, the Bulldogs won 6 elimination games, including a 19-10 victory over the University of Georgia Bulldogs in the championship series;

Whereas, for the third consecutive season, the Bulldogs earned a preseason ranking in Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's Fabulous 40 and an 18th-place ranking from Baseball America Magazine;

Whereas the Bulldogs won 47 games and lost 31 games during the 2008 season;

Whereas 7 members of the Bulldog team were named to the Preseason All-Western Athletic Conference Team;

Whereas on May 17, 2008, the Bulldogs won their third straight Western Athletic Conference championship;

Whereas on May 25, 2008, the Bulldogs won their third straight Western Athletic Conference tournament after beating the University of Nevada;

Whereas the Bulldogs had not played in a College World Series since 1991;

Whereas the Bulldogs won the Long Beach Regional and Tempe Super Regional tournaments, and beat 3rd-ranked Arizona State University, 6th-ranked San Diego University, and 11th-ranked Long Beach State University;

Whereas head coach Mike Batesole was named the 2008 National Coach of the Year, the second time in 10 years he has won the award;

Whereas Steve Susdorf was named the Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Tanner Scheppers was named the Western Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year, Danny Muno was named the Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year, and head coach Mike Batesole was named the Western Athletic Conference Co-Coach of the Year;

Whereas Steve Susdorf, Tanner Scheppers, Erik Wetzel, Alan Ahmady, and Brandon Burke earned First-Team All-Western Athletic Conference honors;

Whereas seniors Clayton Allison, Blake Amador, Jason Breckley, Brandon Burke, Jacob Hower, Ryan Overland, and Steve Susdorf and junior Kris Tomlinson have graduated or will graduate within 9 semesters, having managed their time well enough to keep up with studies and play championship baseball over 78 games and hundreds of practice sessions;

Whereas Steve Susdorf was a Western Athletic Conference All-Academic awardee for the fourth year and also won ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District and second team Academic All-America honors;

Whereas senior Clayton Allison, juniors Kris Tomlinson and Erik Wetzel, and freshmen Trent Soares and Jake Floethe were

also Western Athletic Conference All-Academic performers;

Whereas Tommy Mendonca was named the College World Series Most Outstanding Player and was named to the 2008 National Collegiate Team;

Whereas Erik Wetzel, Steve Susdorf, Steve Detwiler, and Justin Wilson were named to the 2008 College World Series All-Tournament Team;

Whereas, in addition to the players who earned all-conference honors, the Bulldogs saw outstanding play from Danny Muno, Jordan Ribera, Gavin Hedstrom, and Ryan Overland;

Whereas Bulldog coaches Mike Batesole, Matt Curtis, Mike Mayne, and Pat Waer and the entire Bulldog roster and staff have earned a special place in Fresno State sports history;

Whereas many members of the Bulldog team will never play professional baseball and truly give meaning to the term "student-athlete"; and

Whereas Fresno State's competition for the national championship has been exciting to watch for all those who have an attachment to the University, the San Joaquin Valley, and the game we call our national pastime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Baseball Champions, the Fresno State Bulldogs, on an outstanding and historic season; and

(2) recognizes that the Bulldogs, in winning their first College World Series, concluded an unprecedented season and championship that captivated baseball fans across America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1327 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the California State University Fresno State men's baseball team for winning the 2008 Division I College World Series.

Since June 14, the first day of the College World Series, Fresno State made an improbable run at the championship. As a fourth seed, they fought and clawed their way into the College World Series. Just to make the College World Series, Fresno State had to win the Western Athletic Conference. Though they edged their way into the CWS, their presence was definitely felt. They gave college baseball fans across the country special treat with their amazing play.

The Bulldogs belted their way through their matchup with Rice University. This lopsided affair ended with

the final score being 17–5. The Bulldog team had a pair of home runs and eight out of the nine starters had a hit. The team steamed forward to play the second-seeded University of North Carolina. In this best-of-three series, Fresno won the first game 5–3, lost a tight second match 4–3, and sealed their championship fate beating UNC 6–1 in the final affair.

In the championship series against the University of Georgia, the Fresno Bulldogs ended up losing their first game in the best-of-three series. The Fresno players bounced back with a vengeance. They cruised to a 19–8 victory with run after run. In the final game, Fresno brought home a championship after defeating University of Georgia 6–1.

I want to extend my congratulations to Coach Mike Batesole who was named the 2008 National Coach of the Year—the second time he has won this award. He has led them through an amazing College World Series. Assistant Coaches Matt Curtis, Mike Mayne, and Pat Waer complete the coaching staff. All of them have done a stellar job preparing this confident group.

Congratulations are always in order for Tommy Mendonca for winning the College World Series MVP and for being invited to play with the USA National Collegiate Baseball Team. Mendonca hit .285 with 19 home runs, 70 RBIs and eight doubles for the College World Series champions this season. He also hit four home runs and drove in 11 runs during the College World Series.

Winning the national championship as an underdog has brought national acclaim to Fresno State. They are the lowest seed to win a College World Series and the first men's team to win a national championship for their school. These Bulldogs have earned a special place in Fresno State sports history.

I once again congratulate Fresno State for their amazing success.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) such time as he may consume.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. COSTA and Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. COSTA, of course, is a very proud alum of Fresno State so he's very excited for this day, and I want to thank them both for their help on passage of this important legislation.

I rise today to congratulate my hometown baseball team, the Fresno State Bulldogs, who entered the College World Series as underdogs and against all odds succeeded in clinching the championship title. The Fresno State baseball program has had a successful history since its inception in 1922. Bulldog baseball boasts five titles, three WAC championships, 30 NCAA tournament appearances and four appearances in the College World Series. The program has produced excellent Major League Baseball players throughout their 86-year history and

many other student athletes that excel both on and off the field.

The story of the Fresno State Bulldogs in the College World Series is one of outstanding achievement.

With sweat and guts, the Bulldogs won the WAC tournament merely to qualify for the College World Series. Their performance at the national championship not only proved that they belonged in this elite tournament, but also left no doubt they were the best team in the Nation.

Without regard for the doubters and the critics, Fresno State baseball exhibited an uncompromising commitment to success, which is truly characteristic of this university. Challenge after challenge, they pulled through in the face of adversity and achieved the greatest victory in the school's history.

During their outstanding run at the 2008 College World Series, the Fresno State Bulldogs broke a series of records. They were the only team in College World Series history to score more than 17 runs in two separate games. The team also set records for the most home runs, most extra-base hits, most runs batted in, and most total bases in a championship game. Fresno State was the lowest seeded team to ever to win the College World Series, and this championship victory marks the highest achievement of the program in its entire history.

While they excelled as a team, some were also recognized for their exceptional individual performances. Fresno State player Tommy Mendonca was chosen as the Most Valuable Player, Most Outstanding Player in the College World Series, and was selected for the U.S.A. Baseball National Team. Coach Mike Batesole received the Coach of the Year award for the second time in his career. Many other outstanding performances are highlighted in this resolution.

The accomplishment of this team has filled the community with the utmost sense of pride. As underdogs, Fresno State overcame all the odds and achieved the much-deserved title of champions of the College World Series. Congratulations to the Fresno State Bulldogs for the tremendous achievement.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Congressman NUNES, for the introduction of this resolution. He has the university in his congressional district. Congressman RADANOVICH and myself share the same sort of pride and enthusiasm for the university, and all three of us work very closely with the institution, we think one of the finest academic institutions in the country. Congressman BISHOP, we thank you for your kind words.

We want to recognize today the Fresno State baseball team, the Bulldogs,

the Bulldogs of the West, on their victory over the University of Georgia last month to claim the 2008 NCAA Division I baseball championship of the country. Obviously, as Congressman NUNES mentioned, I am a proud alum of the University of California at Fresno State, or as we like to refer to it, the Bulldogs.

What Fresno State accomplished in their road to victory winning the national championship has all the makings of a movie. The Dogs came into the tournament, it was noted, fourth regional seed, and along the way beat prestigious powerhouse universities like Rice, the University of North Carolina, two big wins. They are the first, as was noted, fourth seed to reach the finals and win the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship in any sport in the history of our country.

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As a matter of fact, they are the lowest seed to win a national championship, including professional sports. They went from underdogs to wonderdogs. The team played on the road for 40 straight days and 40 nights. Forty days and 40 nights they played away from home, first going to Baton Rouge to win the WAC tournament, then going back to Long Beach to win the Western tournament, and then to the super-regionals in Phoenix to win that tournament, beating the University of Arizona twice, with their record of 30–2, the University of Arizona in their home stadium; yet the Bulldogs prevailed to put themselves in the College World Series Finals.

What's important to note about this long trek, this incredible journey, is that there were five Bulldogs who made this year's College World Series All-Tournament Team. They were Erik Wetzel, Steve Susdorf, Steve Detwiler, Justin Wilson, and Tommy Mendonca. Congratulations to all of them. They were all Californians.

These truly are student athletes in the finest sense of the word. I suspect the majority of these folks will never play professional baseball, although I suspect they all might want to, and we wish them the best in their endeavors. But these were student athletes who are getting a college education and, in the meantime, enjoying those wonderful aspects of student sports for their university and for their own pride of accomplishment.

Tommy Mendonca, from Turlock, California, was named the College World Series Most Outstanding Player and was recently named to the 2008 National Collegiate Team. He comes from a strong Portuguese family, that both Congressman NUNES and I share, and we enjoyed watching him play all season long.

The character, the camaraderie, the preparation, and the ultimate performance of the success of this team flows from Coach Batesole and his wonderful staff that really made a difference.

When the team started out 8-11 at the beginning of the season, expectations diminished, but they didn't let that, with a series of injuries, put a damper on their spirit, and that spirit of the Bulldogs came back. Go Dogs!

I want to thank my friend Congressman NUNES for introducing this resolution and my dear friend Congressman RADANOVICH for his support for the university. This is a great time that we share for the Valley and for the University of Fresno State.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) such time as he may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Delaware for giving me time to speak on this.

I'd like to begin first by thanking my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. COSTA and Mr. CARDOZA for working with me to introduce H. Res. 1327, and congratulate the Fresno State Bulldogs on winning the NCAA Division I College World Series.

The Fresno State baseball team's journey of becoming the College World Series champion is, without a doubt, a Cinderella story. The Bulldogs faced obstacles and hardships, and yet they were able to overcome the odds to secure the college national baseball championship.

Fresno State University is known for the quality education that it has provided since its founding in 1911. For 97 years, the students of Fresno State, including its student athletes, have illustrated the university's commitment to excellence in education. Now, Fresno State will also be known for its excellence in our national pastime.

The Bulldogs' triumph has highlighted the quality athletic programs of Fresno State. The Bulldogs' baseball team is the only team in NCAA history to win a championship with a regular season record of 47 wins and 31 losses. Additionally, the Bulldogs spent over 40 long days away from home during their trek towards becoming the College World Series champions.

The achievement of the Fresno State baseball team is not just an accomplishment that can be celebrated by Fresno State University, but by all residents of California's Central Valley and by all fans of America's favorite pastime.

The Bulldogs captured baseball fans' hearts as college baseball fever spread Fresno State's colors of cardinal and blue across the Central Valley and the Nation, making this College World Series the most watched of all time according to ESPN. Radio fans tuned in to local Central Valley radio station, KMJ 580, to listen to the game.

My family and I were among those huddled around our TVs, hanging on every pitch, e-mailing the results to our son King who was away at camp. Perhaps next year, when the Bulldogs are playing for back-to-back championships, we will listen to that game on the radio.

As the lyrics in the Bulldogs' fight song state: "So fight and give the best there is in you . . . we'll fight on to victory." And the Bulldogs did just that. With unwavering determination, with complete dedication, the Bulldogs gave their all, and in the end, they were victorious.

It is with great pride that I stand here with my colleagues today supporting H. Res. 1327, congratulating the Fresno State Bulldogs on their College World Series Championship. Go Dogs!

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to yield back. I'd just like to make a comment or two and I will do so, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank all of those who were involved in this. Mr. CARDOZA couldn't be here to speak, but I thank him as well for his interest in this.

And I would just like to congratulate everybody involved with Fresno State. I watched some of these games on television. You see a Georgia versus a Fresno State and your immediate thought is, well, gee, Georgia must be dominant in this situation as they are a very dominant athletic team in the country. But indeed, Fresno State fought to win two out of three of those games and I think deserve a tremendous amount of credit, especially considering the year that they had gone through.

This is an excellent school, and sometimes outside actions cause us to look at other things. And looking at the academics at Fresno State, which include a broad array of offices and services, including over 50 academic departments, eight colleges, a Henry Madden Library, the Division for Graduate Studies, the Division of Continuing and Global Education and dozens of centers and institutes, all these are designed to support the central academic mission of the university, that of creating an environment of engaged, student-centered learning. And they I think deserve to be congratulated for the academic side of what they're doing, as well as their great victory in the NCAA baseball tournament this year.

I congratulate them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1327, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was commu-

nicated to the House by Mrs. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1088) recognizing and commending the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service as a vital American cultural ambassador to the world, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1088

Whereas the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater ("AAADT") is widely recognized as one of the world's premier modern dance companies;

Whereas the AAADT is dedicated to promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the modern dance heritage to people across the globe;

Whereas, over its 50-year history, the AAADT has performed for an estimated 21,000,000 people in 48 States and in 71 countries on 6 continents;

Whereas the AAADT has an extensive touring record;

Whereas the AAADT's signature work, "Revelations", has been seen by more people across the globe than any other work of dance;

Whereas the AAADT performs works by both emerging and established choreographers from throughout the United States and the world;

Whereas the AAADT's home in New York City, the Joan Weill Center for Dance, is the largest facility dedicated exclusively to dance in the United States;

Whereas Alvin Ailey, founder of the AAADT, received the United Nations Peace Medal in 1982;

Whereas President George W. Bush recognized the AAADT and Artistic Director Judith Jamison with the National Medal of Arts in 2001, making the AAADT the first dance company to be honored with this award;

Whereas the AAADT has performed for United States Presidents throughout the company's 50-year history, including in 1968 for President Johnson, at the inaugural gala in 1977 for President Carter, at the inaugural gala in 1993 for President Clinton, and at the state dinner honoring President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya in 2003;

Whereas, over the years, the AAADT has represented American culture with performances at such historic events as the Rio de Janeiro International Arts Festival in 1963, the first Negro Arts Festival in Dakar, Senegal, in 1966, the fabled New Year's Eve performance for the Crown Prince of Morocco in 1978, the Paris Centennial performance at the Grand Palais Theatre in 1989, two unprecedented engagements in South Africa in 1997 and 1998, the 1996 and 2002 Olympic games, the 2005 "Stars of the White Nights" festival in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the 2006 Les étés de la danse de Paris festival in Paris, France;

Whereas the AAADT annually provides more than 100,000 young people from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds the opportunity to explore their creative potential and build their self-esteem through